REMARKS

<u>Specification amendments</u>

Applicants have inserted the serial number of the related applications listed at page 2. This overcomes the objection to the specification at page 3 of the office action.

<u>Double Patenting</u>

Applicants have cancelled claims 26-29 thereby eliminating the double patenting objection.

<u>Anticipation rejection of claims 1-24 and 45.</u>

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 and 45 as anticipated by Alshawi, US Patent application publication 2002/0072914. Of these claims, claims 1, 2, 14-24 and 45 are cancelled.

Claims 3 and 9 are presented in independent form and include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 3 and 9 are not anticipated by Alshawi.

In particular, claim 3 recites "aliasing-logic executable by the processor, upon recognition of an alias grammar in a speech signal received from the user, to convert the alias grammar to an actual grammar, and to recognize the actual grammar as an allowed grammar defined by a voice command application; wherein the aliasing-logic uses a predefined set of correlations between alias grammars and actual grammars to convert between an alias grammar and an actual grammar; and <u>wherein the processor uses at least a subset of the predefined set of correlations regardless of the user who is communicating with the voice command system and substantially regardless of which voice command</u>

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application the processor is processing. » The highlighted element was the subject matter of previous claim 3. For this teaching, the Examiner cites to Alshawi at paragraph 78 and states that it teaches that "variants [are] present in database for all users."

Assuming that the Examiner is correct, i.e., that the variant database of Alshawi includes variants for all the users, this does not meet the limitation of claim 3 in that claim 3 recites that the processor uses at least a subset of predefined correlations "substantially regardless of which voice command application is processing." In particular, with the invention of claim 3, a processor can execute a plurality of different voice command applications, and the invention of claim 3 allows the user to define aliases for grammar that are global, or common, across a plurality of different voice command applications and thus independent of the context in which they arise. Thus, in the invention of claim 3, the system includes a processor that uses a predefined set of correlations between alias grammars and actual grammars regardless or independent of which voice command application that the processor is processing.

In Alshawi, this feature is not described in paragraph 78. Moreover, it is clear from the rest of the Alshawi disclosure that the variants are specifically context related (and thus not global or independent of voice command application). See e.g., paragraph 77 (user chooses an application, and within a context C to customize); paragraph 34 (for each exemplar in context C there may be a collection of variants; the database stores a set of related data of the form C, V, E, wherein each variant is associated with an exemplar E in a context C); paragraph 35 (same).

Accordingly, claim 3 and claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Alshawi.

Claim 9 is now in independent form and also recites the element "wherein the processor executes the aliasing logic substantially regardless of which voice command application the processor is currently processing. » The remarks for claim 3 also apply to claim 9. Claim 9 and claims dependent therefrom are also patentable over Alshawi.

Rejection of claims 25- 44

The rejection of these claims is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.
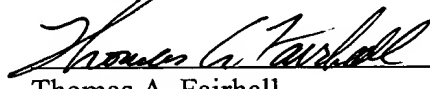
Conclusion

The claims, as amended, recite patentable subject matter over the art cited by the Examiner for the reasons stated. The Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections and pass the case on to issuance. Favorable action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted.

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Date: 1/11/05   By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Amendment is being deposited as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on this _11_ th day of January, 2005.

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